

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you craft the Fiscal Year 2019 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you maintain level funding to support efforts to preserve the historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II.

The Japanese American internment constituted one of the darkest periods in our nation's history. It would be an even greater failure on our part not to guard against the future perpetration of similar racially motivated acts. The camps, relocation centers, processing areas, and other confinement sites located throughout the South and West are invaluable physical links that help to connect current and future generations with the history and significance of the incarceration.

Congress has recognized the important educational role of confinement sites. With the passage of P.L. 109-441, Congress unanimously agreed to authorize \$38 million to use these sites as tools to educate the American public. In recent fiscal years, your subcommittee provided and Congress approved a \$3 million appropriation to preserve Japanese American confinement sites.

Congress further recognized the patriotism of many Japanese Americans who patriotically volunteered to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces while their families were imprisoned by honoring these veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011.

Building on this history of Congressional support, we respectfully request continued funding to support the significant community interest in restoring and maintaining these sites. This funding will leverage proportional local involvement to ensure that historically significant areas receive the attention they deserve. Federal resources provided by your subcommittee will build upon the strong bipartisan support Congress has already demonstrated and reaffirm our national commitment to preserving these sites, so that we never repeat this history.

Sincerely,



DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress



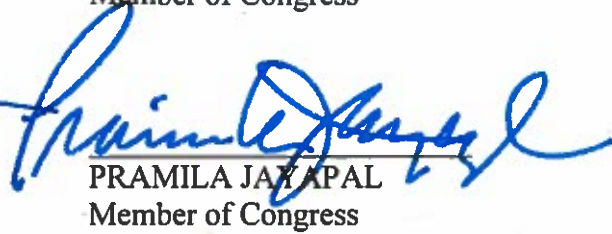
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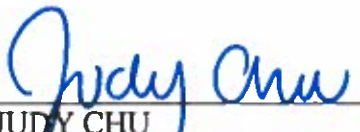
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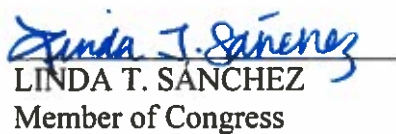

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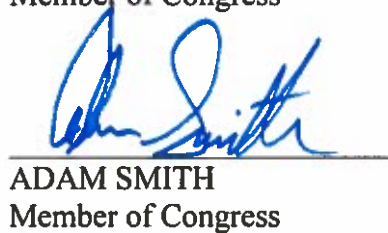

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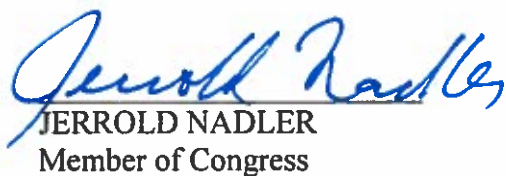

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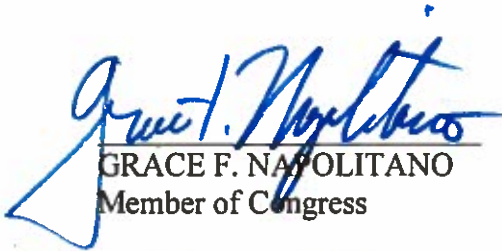

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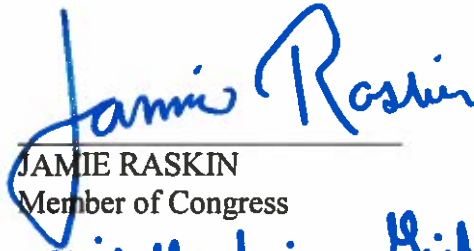
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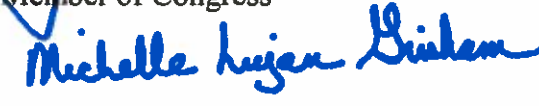
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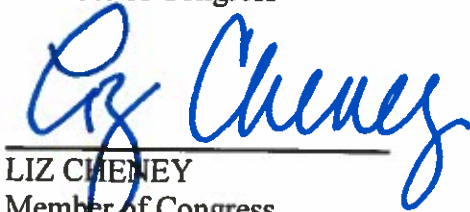
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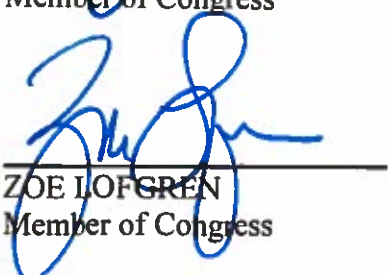
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